

July 22, 1999

HONORING WILLIAM A. GALLINA  
ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who embodies what it means to be a true American, a dedicated family man, an accomplished professional, and a consummate citizen of New York City, William A. Gallina, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

William, or "Bill" as he is known by those closest to him, has lifelong roots in the Bronx. Born on his parents' kitchen table in the West Farms section of the Bronx on July 26, 1939, Bill blazed an exceptional path from the very beginning.

Growing up in the South Bronx home of his immigrant parents, his mother from Germany, his father from Italy, Bill attended Public School 6, Herman Ridder Junior High School, and earned his diploma at James Monroe High School. Following high school graduation, Bill attended New York State Maritime College where he spent three years studying Maritime Engineering, then transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After graduation, he began working at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation where he and a small group of rocket propulsion engineers successfully helped in the design of the descent engine of the Lunar Excursion Modules (L.E.M.) fulfilling President John F. Kennedy's dream and America's promise of landing on the moon before the close of the 1960s.

While working for Grumman, Bill attended St. John's University Law School in the evenings, graduating in 1967 with a Juris Doctor degree. Upon graduation from law school he went to work for a major Wall Street law firm specializing in intellectual property, eventually leaving to open his own firm specializing in criminal and personal injury law. He returned to the Bronx in the early 1970s where he was instrumental in constructing a professional medical office complex where he maintained his office for the practice of law.

To this day, he continues to practice law in Bronx County where he has become one of the leading personal injury attorneys in the metropolitan New York area. His parents continued to live in Bronx County until their passing. Bill's mother used the very same kitchen table on which he was born until her death in 1997 at the age of 98.

Bill is married to the former Ronnie Bernon and has an 11-year-old son, three daughters from a prior marriage, and two grandchildren. He is active in local and national bar associations, in particular, the New York State Trial Lawyers where he serves as a member of the Board of Directors, fighting to protect the rights of accident victims.

Bill is an avid sailor, spending his limited free time sailing the waters of Long Island Sound.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending William A. Gallina of Bronx, New York for a remarkable life on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BUCKLEY

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and to pay tribute to Mr. James Buckley, Executive Director of University Neighborhood Housing Program in my South Bronx district. He was selected to receive a James A. Johnson Community Fellowship from the Fannie Mae Foundation for his significant contributions to the fields of affordable housing and community development. Mr. Buckley is one of only six individuals selected through a national nomination process to receive this fellowship in the inaugural year of this program.

Mr. Speaker, James Buckley founded the University Neighborhood Housing program (UNHP) in 1989 and has served as its Executive Director since then. As a Fordham University student in 1975, Mr. Buckley interned with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NBCCC) as a community organizer, and he later served as its Executive Director. As a result of his organizing efforts at NBCCC, the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC) was formed, which has reclaimed thousands of units of housing and presently owns and/or manages 70 multi-family apartment buildings.

As the Director of the Reinvestment Project at the NBCCC, Mr. Buckley attracted over \$100 million in public and private funds to area neighborhoods, which led to the creation of 1,500 units of safe, sanitary, affordable housing units for community residents. As a result of these efforts, two additional non-profit community housing corporations were created that went on to develop residential properties with tenant or community ownership.

Mr. Speaker, the Johnson fellows Program was created to honor the leadership and distinguished service of former Fannie Mae Foundation Chairman James A. Johnson. The Fellows program is designed to reward and recognize outstanding leaders and promote innovation in the affordable housing and community development fields. Each fellow will receive a \$70,000 grant and plus a \$20,000 educational travel/study stipend to pursue a self-designed course of professional development to enhance the individual's skills and field experiences and to explore new solutions to current affordable housing or community development challenges.

Mr. Speaker, being selected for this program indicates that James Buckley has demonstrated that he has the ability and the desire to be an asset and a role model in our community. We are proud of his accomplishments and I know he will take full advantage of the opportunity presented to him. He is a terrific example for community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. James Buckley for his outstanding accomplishments, and in commending the Fannie Mae Foundation for honoring these six outstanding leaders and giving them the opportunity to do even more for their communities.

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HONORING MILLARD NELSON

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Millard Nelson. Millard Nelson has distinguished himself by his life-long commitment to his family, his community and the Democratic Party.

Millard Nelson has worked as a farmer, substitute mail carrier, and office manager for the Pierce County Agriculture, Stabilization and Conservation Office. Millard has been dedicated to public service throughout his life. He served as the President of the Salem Town Board, a member of the Pierce County Board and the assessor for the Gilmanton Township. Millard has also been active in many conservation programs in his native Pierce County, and it is estimated that throughout his life he has planted more than 500,000 trees in Pierce County. These trees are Millard's lasting gift to future generations of Pierce County citizens.

Millard Nelson is perhaps best known for his life-long commitment to the Democratic Party. Millard was involved in the founding of the current Democratic Party in Wisconsin in 1949 and has served the party in a variety of capacities since that time. Millard and his wife Ellen have been pillars of the Democratic Party for over 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this country needs more citizens like Millard Nelson. He has lived his life committed to the principle that we must make this world better for future generations. I rise today in the United States House of Representatives to honor Millard Nelson and thank him for his lifetime of commitment to Pierce County and the Wisconsin Democratic Party.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE SANDEFUR

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding accomplishment of Valerie Sandefur.

Valerie is a High School student at Albuquerque Academy, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and recently won the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "Voice of Democracy" broadcast scriptwriting contest. The contest asked students to create a speech based on the theme "My Service to America." Her speech was judged the best from New Mexico.

Valerie spoke about how she and all of us could better serve our country by re-enforcing the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. In her speech she said:

"We are no longer a nation indivisible, we are increasingly a nation invisible. My service to America is to put the meaning back into the pledge of allegiance and to create again the idea of 'one nation.' However, there are two challenges to regaining our allegiance—apathy and ignorance."